

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THAN ZAW, INDIVIDUALLY
AND ON BEHALF OF ALL
OTHERS SIMILARLY
SITUATED,

Plaintiff,

v.

NELNET BUSINESS
SOLUTIONS INC.; NELNET,
INC.; and NELNET
SERVICING, LLC; and DOES 1-
100,

Defendant.

Case No.: C 13-05788 RS

**FINAL ORDER APPROVING
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

DATE: November 13, 2014
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
COURTROOM: 3

HON. RICHARD SEEBOORG

FINAL APPROVAL ORDER

On October 16, 2013, after active litigation, extensive arms length negotiations, mediation sessions before the Honorable Edward A. Infante (Ret.), and settlement discussions, Plaintiff and Defendant (herein jointly referred to as the "Parties") entered in to a Class Action Settlement Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"), which is subject to review under Fed. R. Civ. P.

On June 6, 2014, the Parties filed the Agreement, along with Plaintiff's Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Preliminary Approval Motion").

In compliance with the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-

1 2, 119 Stat. 4, Defendant will serve written notice of the proposed class action
2 settlement on the person who has the primary Federal regulatory or supervisory
3 responsibility with respect to Defendant.

4 On August 4, 2014, upon consideration of the Agreement, Preliminary
5 Approval Motion, and the record, the Court entered an Order of Preliminary
6 Approval of Class Action Settlement (hereinafter referred to as the "Preliminary
7 Approval Order"). Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, the Court, among
8 other things, (i) preliminarily certified (for settlement purposes only) a class of
9 plaintiffs (hereinafter referred to as the "Class Members") with respect to the
10 claims asserted in this action; (ii) preliminarily approved the proposed settlement;
11 (iv) appointed Plaintiff Than Zaw as the Class Representative; (v) appointed Hyde
12 & Swigart and Kazerouni Law Group, APC as Class Counsel; and (vi) set the date
13 and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

14 On October 3, 2014, Class Counsel timely filed their motion for Attorneys'
15 Fees, costs, and incentive award.

16 On October 14, 2014, the Parties filed their Motion for Final Approval of
17 Class Action Settlement Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Final Approval
18 Motion"). Pursuant to their Final Approval Motion, the Parties request final
19 certification of the settlement class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) and final
20 approval of the proposed class action settlement.

21 On November 13, 2014, a Final Approval Hearing was held pursuant to Fed.
22 R. Civ. P. 23 to determine whether the lawsuit satisfies the applicable prerequisites
23 for class action treatment and whether the proposed settlement is fundamentally
24 fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class Members and
25 should be approved by the Court. The Court has read and considered the
26 Agreement, Final Approval Motion and the record. All capitalized terms used
27 herein have the meanings defined herein and/or in the Agreement.

28

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **JURISDICTION:** The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action and over all settling parties hereto.
2. **SETTLEMENT CLASS MEMBERS:** Pursuant to Fed. R.Civ. P. 23(b)(3), the Action is hereby finally certified, for settlement purposes only, as a class action on behalf of the following Settlement Class members with respect to the claims asserted in the Action:

All persons within the State of California, who, on or after December 18, 2011 through August 4, 2014, received a telephone call from Defendant that was recorded and/or monitored by Defendant.

3. **CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND CLASS COUNSEL APPOINTMENT:**
Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, the Court finally certifies Plaintiff Than Zaw as the Class Representative and Joshua B. Swigart of Hyde & Swigart and Abbas Kazerounian of the Kazerouni Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.
4. **NOTICE AND CLAIMS PROCESS:** Pursuant to the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, the Claims Administrator has complied with the approved notice process as confirmed in its declaration filed with the Court. The form and method for notifying the Settlement Class members of the settlement and its terms and conditions was in conformity with this Court's Preliminary Approval Order and satisfied the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B) and due process, and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Court finds that the notice process was clearly designed to advise the Settlement Class members of their rights. Further, the Court finds that the claim process set forth in the Agreement was followed and that the process was the best practicable procedure under the circumstances.

1 5. **FINAL CLASS CERTIFICATION:** The Court again finds that the Action
2 satisfies the applicable prerequisites for class action treatment under Fed. R.
3 Civ. P. 23, namely:
4 (a) The Settlement Class members are so numerous that joinder of all of
5 them in the Action would be impracticable;
6 (b) There are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class
7 members, which predominate over any individual questions;
8 (c) The claims of Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class
9 members;
10 (d) The Plaintiff and Class Counsel have fairly and adequately represented
11 and protected the interests of all the Settlement Class members; and
12 (e) Class treatment of these claims will be efficient and manageable, thereby
13 achieving an appreciable measure of judicial economy, and a class action
14 is superior to other available methods for a fair and efficient adjudication
15 of this controversy.

16 6. The Court finds that the settlement of the Action, on the terms and conditions
17 set forth in the Agreement, is in all respects fundamentally fair, reasonable,
18 adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class members,
19 especially in light of the benefits to the Settlement Class members, the
20 strength of the Plaintiff's case, the complexity, expense and probable
21 duration of further litigation, the risk and delay inherent in possible appeals,
22 and the risk of collecting any judgment obtained on behalf of the class.

23 7. **SETTLEMENT TERMS:** The Agreement, which has been filed with the
24 Court and shall be deemed incorporated herein, and the proposed settlement
25 are finally approved and shall be consummated in accordance with the terms
26 and provisions thereof, except as amended by any order issued by this Court.
27 The material terms of the Agreement include, but are not limited to, the
28 following:

1 a) Defendant will pay a non-reversionary "all in" cash sum in the
2 total amount of \$1,188,110.00.

3 b) The 1,896 Class Members who submitted a valid claim form will
4 each receive \$420.39 from the Settlement Fund.

5 c) Claims Administrator shall pay from the Settlement Fund the
6 maximum total of \$1,500.00 to Plaintiff, Than Zaw in the Zaw
7 Action payable through Class Counsel as an Incentive Payment for
8 bringing and participating in this action; and

9 d) Claims Administrator shall pay from the Settlement Fund to Class
10 Counsel the maximum sum of \$297,027.00 as attorneys' fees and
11 \$15,000 in costs incurred in litigating this Action, in the manner
12 specified in the Settlement Agreement.

13 8. The Court finds that the settlement of the Action, on the terms and conditions
14 set forth in the Agreement, is in all respects fundamentally fair, reasonable,
15 adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class members,
16 especially in light of the benefits to the Settlement Class members, the
17 strength of the Plaintiff's case, the complexity, expense and probable
18 duration of further litigation, the risk and delay inherent in possible appeals,
19 and the risk of collecting any judgment obtained on behalf of the class.

20 9. EXCLUSIONS: Only two exclusions were received. The persons requesting
21 exclusion are named on Exhibit A to this Order. The Court hereby excludes
22 these individuals from the Settlement Class.

23 10. OBJECTIONS: Objector Noel Lawrence's objection is hereby dismissed
24 pursuant to the Parties' Stipulation. [See ECF No. 29].

25 11. The Court finds that the settlement of the Action, on the terms and conditions
26 set forth in the Agreement, is in all respects fundamentally fair, reasonable,
27 adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class members,
28 especially in light of the benefits to the Settlement Class members, the

1 strength of the Plaintiffs' case, the complexity, expense and probable
2 duration of further litigation, the risk and delay inherent in possible appeals,
3 and the risk of collecting any judgment obtained on behalf of the class.

4 12. The Settlement Class members were given an opportunity to object to the
5 settlement. No Settlement Class members filed objections. After
6 consideration of each of the objections, the Court hereby overrules such
7 objections.

8 13. This Order is binding on all Settlement Class members, except those
9 individuals named on Exhibit A, who validly and timely excluded themselves
10 from the Class.

11 14. RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND DISMISSAL OF ACTION: The Class
12 Representative, Settlement Class members, and their successors and assigns
13 are permanently barred and enjoined from instituting or prosecuting, either
14 individually or as a class, or in any other capacity, any of the Released
15 Claims against any of the Released Parties, as set forth in the Agreement.
16 Pursuant to the release contained in the Agreement, the Released Claims are
17 compromised, discharged, and dismissed with prejudice by virtue of these
18 proceedings and this Order.

19 15. The Action is hereby dismissed with prejudice in all respects.

20 16. This Order is not, and shall not be construed as, an admission by Defendant.

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 17. Without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal
2 with Prejudice, the Court hereby retains continuing and exclusive jurisdiction
3 over the Parties and all matters relating to the Action and/or Agreement,
4 including the administration, interpretation, construction, effectuation,
5 enforcement, and consummation of the settlement and this order.

6

7

8 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

9

10 Dated: 11/14/14



11
12 HON. RICHARD SEEBORG
13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Exhibit A

Zaw v. Nelnet Business Solutions Inc.,**Requests for Exclusion Received**

GCG ID #	Name	City	State
1068667	SANTIAGO GUTIERREZ	COLTON	CA
1026317	SHARAREH SADAGHIANI	SANTA CLARA	CA